

## Message Text

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17

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 TRSE-00 OMB-01 SAJ-01 NIC-01

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 L-03 NSC-10 PA-04 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 DRC-01 /126 W

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P R 071550Z FEB 74

FM AMCONSUL STUTTGART

TO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1969

U.S. MISSION BERLIN 342

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUESSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

USAREUR HEIDELBERG

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y P A R A 1 L I N E 7

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT ELAB GW

SUBJ: LABOR DISPUTE IN PUBLIC SERVICES UNIONS

USAREUR FOR POLAD

REF: STUTTGART 0068 NOTAL

1. SUMMARY: IN PRIVATE CONVERSATION FEB 7 WITH OETV ( PUBLIC  
SERVICES WORKERS UNION) DEPUTY FEDERAL CHAIRMAN HENRICH  
JACOBI, WHO IS PRINCIPAL WAGE NEGOTIATOR FOR UNION, WE LEARNED  
THAT UNION LEADERSHIP EXPECTS TO MEET FEB 10 IN STUTTGART AND  
TO CALL STRIKE OF SOME KIND. BUT JACOBI, WHO WAS VERY CALM,  
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SAID, IN CONFIDENCE, THAT THERE IS STILL FLEXIBILITY IN THE SITUA-

TION. UNION HAD ORIGINALLY DEMANDED 15 PERCENT AND DM REPEAT DM INSTEAD OF \$ DM300 VACATION MONEY BUT NOW IS EMPHASIZING "CONSIDERABLY MORE THAN 10 PERCENT", JACOBI SAID. UNION CLEARLY EXPECTS RECEIVE NEW OFFER FROM EMPLOYERS ( BIND , LAND, GEMEINDEN) EARLY NEXT WEEK. OUR ASSESSMENT (REFTEL) REMAINS UNCHANGED THAT PROCEDURAL GAME MUST BE PLAYED OUT, BUT SITUATION FAR FROM ERITICAL AND EARLY SETTLEMENT STILL GOOD POSSIBILITY. END SUMMARY.

2. JACOBI CONFIRMED WIDESPREAD VIEW THAT FEB 7 AND 8 VOTE WOULD AUTHORIZE OETV LEADERSHIP TO CALL STRIKE. UNION LEADERS WOULD MEET SUNDAY TO ASSESS RESULTS AND DECIDE ON NEXT MOVE. ASKED ABOUT LEADER'S OPTIONS, JACOBI SAID A STRIKE OF SOME KIND WOULD CERTAINLY BE CALLED FOR MONDAY. HE DID NOT ELABORATE ON EXTENT OR LOCALES OF STRIKE OR PARTIAL STRIKES, BUT HE EXPRESSLY RULED OUT ANY STRIKE CALL FOR GERMAN EMPLOYEES OF US FORCES. (THESE EMPLOYEES ARE COVERED BY SEPARATE AGREEMENT WITH OETV AND NEGOTIATIONS ON NEW CONTRACT ARE IN PROGRESS SEPARATELY.)

3. ASKED ABOUT POSSIBLE SETTLEMENT TERMS ACCEPTABLE TO OETV JACOBI SAID THERE WAS LITTLE PROSPECT THAT FRINGE BENEFITS WOULD BE ENOUGH TO SWEETEN THE EMPLOYER'S OFFER OF 9.5 PERCENT AND DM 130 MINIMUM INCREASE. OETV HAD ALREADY ACHIEVED 40 HOUR WEEK ( AND 13 MONTHS SALARY) LAST OCTOBER, AND WAS DEMANDING DM 300 VACATION MONEY NOW. RATHER, HE THOUGHT A DEAL WOULD HAVE TO BE MADE ON THE ACROSS-BOARD WAGE INCREASE. BRUSHING ASIDE OETV ORIGINAL DEMAND OF 15 PERCENT, JACOBI SAID, "WE ARE NOW ASKING CONSIDERABLY MORE THAN 10 PERCENT".

4. ADDING UP SCORE, JACOBI SAID, CALMLY , THERE WAS STILL FLEXIBILITY LEFT TO BOTH SIDES AND, WHILE HE DECLINED TO PREDICT SETTLEMENT DATE OR TERMS, HE UNMISTAKABLY IMPLIED THAT OETV EXPECTS NEW EMPLOYER'S OFFER EARLY IN WEEK OF FEB 8 AND THAT HE SEES PROSPECT OF SETTLEMENT SOON THEREAFTER.

5 COMMENTS: LOCAL EXPECTATIONS ARE THAT STRIKE ACTIONS, IF

CALLED BY OETV, WOULD BE DIFFERENTIAL TYPES, HITTING ONLY PERESELECTED PLACES AND SECTORS, AND EMPHASIZING UNION POWER BUT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AVOIDING DEEPLY OFFENDING PUBLIC.

WE HAVE MADE NO SURVEY, BUT THERE ARE SIGNS THAT PUBLIC AT LARGE IS NOT UNSYMPATHETIC TO LOWEST PAID OETV, POSTAL AND RAILWORKERS BOTH BECAUSE OF HIGER TAXES AND BUNDESTAG DECISION TO RAISE DEPPUTIE'S SALARIES.

IN SEPARATE CONVERSATION WITH B/W CHAIRMAN OF DGB,

KARL SCHWAB, HE AGREED WITH OVERLL OUR OVERALL ASSESSMENTS INCLUD-  
ING PROBABILITY STRIKE CALL FOR SOFT SPOTS, WHICH WOULD BE  
TACTICALLY SELECTED, AND SAID HE THOUGHT THAT DISPUTE WOULD  
BE SETTLED QUICKLY IF EMPLOYERS IMPROVED MINIMUM WAGE BOOST  
ABOVE DM 130 ALREADY OFFERED. THIS KIND OF INCREASE WOULD  
WORK OUT TO HIGER PERCENTAGE THAN 10 PERCENT, WHEN ALL CAL-  
CULATIONS INCLUDED, BUT LOWEST PAID WORKERS WOULD BENEFIT  
THEY WERE MOST IN NEED, AND THEY COMPRISE MAJORITY OETV  
ONCE THEY RECEIVE GOOD OFFER, LENGTHY STRIKE AT "ESSENTIAL  
SERVICES"LEVELS (STREET CLEANING. GARBAGE COLLECTING, GRAVE  
DIGGING ETC) WOULD BE MOST IMPROBABLE. RUCHTI

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## Message Attributes

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